

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4473
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
INFO DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2223

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, MASS, CD
SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

1. SUMMARY: IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT AMLLOUM, I WAS CALLED TO
THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT DJIME LAST EVENING. HE GAVE ME A DETAILED

REVIEW OF THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN NORTHERN CHAD, AND REQUESTED
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTER LIBYAN AGGRESSION IN THE AREA.

2. IN COVERING THE HISTORY OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN NORTHERN CHAD,
DJIME POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE REBELLION IN THE NORTH AND THE LIBYAN
OCCUPATION OF AOUZOU AREA PRE-DATED THE COMING TO POWER OF SUPREME
MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC). HE SAID THAT WHEN SMC CAME TO POWER IT MADE
A CONSCIOUS DECISION NOT TO ENGAGE IN OFFENSIVE ACTIONS IN THE
NORTH, BUT RATHER TRY AND NEGOTIATE A BORDER SETTLEMENT WITH
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LIBYA AND WITHDRAWAL OF LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR REBELS; WHILE AT THE SAME
TIME OFFERING THE REBELS A POLICY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. HE SAID
THIS POLICY HAD FAILED BECAUSE OF LIBYAN INTRANSIGENCE AND DUPLICITY.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE PRESENT FIGHTING IN NORTHERN CHAD, HE SAID THAT
LIBYAN TROOPS DISGUISED AS MERCENARIES WERE INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING
ON THE SIDE OF THE REBELS AND THAT HEAVY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY LIBYA

WAS BEING USED. HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN BARDAI WAS CRITICAL AND THAT THE TOWN WOULD PROBABLY FALL IN NEAR FUTURE. HE ADDED THAT UNLESS CHAD RECEIVED OUTSIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE, THE ENTIRE NORTHERN AREA WOULD PROBABLY FALL TO LIBYA. HE OPENLY DOUBTED IF CHAD'S APPEAL TO OAU WOULD SUCCEED IN ACHIEVING ANY MEANINGFUL ACTION AND STATED CHAD

PLANNED TO TAKE MATTER TO UN IF THIS WAS CASE.

4. HE SAID HE WAS PRESENTING THE ENTIRE MATTER TO ME TO ASK FOR AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF CHAD'S POSITION AND TO REQUEST US MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IN REPLY, I POINTED OUT OUR POLICY ON MILITARY

ASSISTANCE, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CHAD DID FIND ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY THREATENED. I SAID THAT IT WAS POINTLESS TO TALK IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT QUOTE MILITARY ASSISTANCE UNQUOTE AND SUGGESTED THAT INSTEAD, VICE PRESIDENT GIVE ME A LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED IN DEFENSE OF NORTH AND THAT I WOULD SUBMIT SUCH A LIST TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION. I POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS IN NO WAY A COMMITMENT TO RESPOND FAVORABLY, BUT WAS RATHER A MORE LOGICAL FORMAT TO GIVE THE MATTER REALISTIC CONSIDERATION. I SUGGESTED THAT IF HE PRESENTED SUCH A LIST, IT SHOULD BE GIVEN BOTH TO ME AND TO THE CHADIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON SO THAT ANY FUTURE TALKS IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE DONE FROM THE SAME STARTING POINT.

5. COMMENTARY: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT LIBYA HAS OCCUPIED A LARGE AREA WITHIN THE NORMALLY ACCEPTED BOUNDARY OF CHAD AND IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTIVELY SUPPORTING CHADIAN REBELS ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY THIS SUPPORT HAS STRENGTHENED THESE REBELS TO THE POINT THAT THEY NOW MENACE EVEN SUCH GARRISONED TOWNS AS BARDAI. THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE DETERIORATING CONDITIONS IN NORTH AND BELIEVES IT MUST HAVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE.

6. I CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT ADDITIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT WILL ACUTALLY CHANGE THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH, HOWEVER, I AM SURE THAT THE DENIAL OF ANY SORT OF ASSISTANCE TO A WEAK COUNTRY THAT IS CLEARLY

THE SUBJECT OF AGGRESSION BY A STRONGER NEIGHBOR WILL NOT BE UNDERSTOOD.

7. I REMAIN RELUCTANT TO SUPPLY MILITARY EQUIPMENT OVER THE LONG RUN TO CHAD, BUT HAVE BECOME CONVINCED THAT IN THE PRESENT EMERGENCY SITUATION, WE MUST SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDER THEIR REQUEST FOR DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT TO COUNTER LIBYAN AGGRESSION. IF, UPON REVIEWING THE LIST THAT THEY WILL PRESENT, WE ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT ANY OF THESE ITEMS CAN BE TRULY USEFUL TO CHAD IN DEFENDING ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, WE SHOULD RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY. IF THIS IS THE CASE, AT LEAST WE WOULD BE SUPPORTING A GOVERNMENT FOR WHICH WE DID NOT HAVE TO APOLOGIZE. DESPITE ITS MILITARY CHARACTER, THE

GOVERNMENT ENJOYS A GOOD RECORD IN HUMAN RIGHTS: CONDITIONS OF
PERSONAL FREEDOM HAVE IMPROVED SINCE ITS INCEPTION: THE FIGHT AGAINST
THE REBELS HAS NOT TAKEN ON THE CHARACTER OF REPRISALS OR ATROCITIES:
AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY REAFFIRMED ITS INTENTION OT BETTER
THE SOCIAL LOT OF THE AVERAGE CHADIAN. BRADFORD

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Message Attributes

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